(original) A process for the preparation of 2-(4-N,N-dialkylamino-2-hydroxybenzoyl) benzoic esters of the formula
 I,

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in which the substituents, independently of one another, have the following meanings:

 R^1 and R^2

are C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₃-C₁₀-cycloalkyl selected from the group consisting of cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, 1-methylcyclopropyl, 1-ethylcyclopropyl, 1-propylcyclopropyl, 1-butylcyclopropyl, 1-pentacyclopropyl, 1-methyl-1-butylcyclopropyl, 1,2-dimethylcyclypropyl, 1-methyl-2-ethylcyclopropyl, cyclooctyl, cyclooctyl and cyclodecyl;

 R^3 is C_1 - C_{12} -alkyl, C_3 - C_{10} -cycloalkyl selected from the group consisting of cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl,

cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, 1-methylcyclopropyl, 1ethylcyclopropyl, 1-propylcyclopropyl, 1butylcyclopropyl, 1-pentacyclopropyl, 1-methyl-1butylcyclopropyl, 1,2-dimethylcyclypropyl, 1-methyl-2ethylcyclopropyl, cyclooctyl, cyclooctyl and cyclodecyl

by

I. reaction of 3-N,N-dialkylaminophenol of the formula II, in which R¹ and R² have the meanings given above, with phthalic anhydride of the formula III to give 2-(4-N,N-dialkylamino-2-hydroxybenzoyl)benzoic acid of the formula IV and

II. subsequent esterification of the 2-(4-N, \vec{N} -dialkylamino-2-hydroxybenzoyl)benzoic acid of the formula IV formed in stage I with a C_1 - C_{12} -alcohol or a cyclic C_3 - C_{10} -alcohol in the presence of an acidic catalyst to give the 2-(4-N,N-dialkylamino-2-hydroxybenzoyl)benzoic ester of the formula I,

which comprises crystallizing the ester of the formula I formed and purifying the crystals in a further process stage III by treatment with an adsorbent and/or by distillation.

- (original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the adsorbent is a substance chosen from the group consisting of activated carbons, aluminum oxides, zeolites and silica gels.
- 3. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 er 2, wherein the esterification in the process stage II is carried out in the presence of sulfuric acid as catalyst.
- 4. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the 2(4-N,N-dialkylamino-2-hydroxybenzoyl)benzoic ester of the
 formula I formed comprises less than 10 ppm of rhodamine.
- 5. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the benzoic ester is n-hexyl 2-(4-N,N-diethylamino-2-hydroxybenzoyl)benzoate of the formula Ia

- 6. (currently amended) A process as claimed in <u>claim 1</u> any of <u>claims 1 to 5</u>, wherein, in the process stage III, the adsorbent used is activated carbon or silica gel.
- 7. (original) A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein, in process stage III, the ester is purified by treatment with activated carbon and subsequent distillation.
- (original) A process as claimed in claim 7, wherein, in the process stage III
 - a. the ester is dissolved in a nonpolar solvent at a temperature in the range from 10°C to 100°C,
 - b. this solution is passed over a granular activated carbon bed at a temperature in the range from 20°C to 100°C ,
 - c. the ester, after passing through the granular activated carbon bed, is separated off from the solvent by distillation.
- (original) A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the solvent used in the process step IIIa is cyclohexane or toluene.

10. (original) A process for the preparation of n-hexylyl 2-(4-N,N-diethylamino-2-hydroxybenzoyl)benzoate of the formula Ia

by

 reaction of 3-N,N-diethylaminophenol of the formula IIa with phthalic anhydride of the formula III to give 2-(4-N,N-diethylamino-2-hydroxybenzoyl)benzoic acid of the formula IVa,

II. esterification of the 2-(4-N,N-diethylamino-2-

hydroxybenzoyl)benzoic acid of the formula IVa formed in stage I in hexanol in the presence of sulfuric acid to give n-hexyl

2-(4-N,N-diethylamino-2-hydroxy]benzoyl)benzoate of the formula Ia

and isolation of the n-hexyl ester Ia in crystalline form,

III.

- a. dissolution of the n-hexyl ester Ia in toluene or hexanol at a temperature in the range from 25°C to 50°C,
- b. metering of this solution over a granular activated carbon bed or a silica gel bed at a temperature in the range from 25°C to 50°C and
- c. subsequent isolation of the n-hexyl ester by separating off the toluene and/or hexanol by distillation.